

**From:** [Griswold, Stephen \(EOIR\)](#)  
**To:** [All of Judges \(EOIR\)](#)  
**Subject:** SPECIAL WORK OPPORTUNITY - BIA Precedent Committee  
**Date:** Thursday, July 06, 2017 12:18:56 PM

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Greetings, Judges –

As you may know, Judge Michael Bennett of the Portland immigration court recently retired. As a result, we are looking to fill his position as a member of the BIA Precedent Committee.

As Immigration Judges, we sometimes find ourselves wishing that the Board of Immigration Appeals had issued a precedent decision on a particular issue arising in our cases. The BIA Precedent Committee was created to address that need; it serves as a conduit and clearinghouse for recommendations from Immigration Judges to the Board for published guidance. Since its creation in 2007, the BIA Precedent Committee process has resulted in a number of precedent decisions. Earlier this year we streamlined the committee's procedures to make it easier for judges to recommend issues to the Board for publication. The committee members receive IJ recommendations for publication and then confer, solicit additional information if necessary, and decide whether to forward the issue to the Board. You can access more information about the committee in the BIA Precedent Committee section of the Guidance and Publications site [here](#).

This volunteer opportunity would be for a term of 3 years on the 9 member committee. The courts you would represent are Honolulu, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Tacoma.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Judge Michael Straus, the current committee chairperson.

If you would like to volunteer, please let me know by the end of next week, Friday, July 14.

Thank you,

**Stephen S. Griswold**

Assistant Chief Immigration Judge  
Guidance and Publications

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